

Message Text

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45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 NIC-01 RSR-01 /118 W

----- 015006

R 061015Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7104

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USINT CAIRO

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, RP LY, SA, SO, GV

SUBJ: ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS VISIT

REF: A) JAKARTA 4644; B) MANILA 5434; C) MANILA 8850 (NOTAL)

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRESIDENT MARCOS HAS ACCEPTED VISIT TO PHILS
OF ISLAMIC FOREIGNS MINISTERS SUBJECT TO CONDITIONS THAT GROUP
CONSIST OF MINISTERS ONLY AND GO ON RECORD IN ADVANCE THAT THEIR
INTENTIONS TOWARDS GOP ARE FRIENDLY. COMMENT: CONDITIONS REFLECT
GOP SENSITIVITIES TO CHARGES OF MISTREATMENT OF PHIL MUSLIM
MINORITY AND SUSPICION OF LIBYAN INTENTIONS BUT DO NOT SEEM
DESIGNED TO SABOTAGE VISIT. END SUMMARY.

1. DFA HAS RELEASED TEXT OF LETTER FROM PRESIDENT MARCOS REPLYING
TO RECENT LETTER OF TUNKU ABDUL RAHMAN, SECRETARY GENERAL OF
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INTERNATIONAL ISLAMIC SECRETARIAT, WHICH OFFICIALLY INFORMED GOP

OF VISIT PROPOSED FOR AUGUST 14 OF FOREIGN MINISTERS OF LIBYA, SAUDI ARABIA, SENEGAL AND SOMALIA TO DISCUSS WITH THE GOP CONDITIONS OF THE FILIPINO MUSLIM POPULATION. VISIT COMES AS RESULT OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY MARCH 1973 ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE IN BENGHAZI.

2. IN HIS LETTER TO RAHMAN, MARCOS WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN ACTUAL CONDITIONS IN MINDANAO AND SULU TO FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND STATES THAT HE HAS NO OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED VISIT. HOWEVER, HE SETS FORTH TWO CONDITIONS WHICH MUST FIRST BE MET: (A) THAT DELEGATION BE COMPOSED OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS AND NO OTHERS AND (B) "THAT IT IS AGREED TO BE STATED PUBLICLY BY THE DELEGATION THAT THEIR PURPOSE IN COMING IS MERELY TO STRENGTHEN RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES, ESTABLISH PERSONAL CONTACTS AND EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES."

3. MARCOS' LETTER ALSO REGISTERS OBJECTION TO LANGUAGE OF BENGHAZI RESOLUTION WHICH REFERS TO "REPORTED PERSECUTION AND GENOCIDE CAMPAIGNS" AGAINST FILIPINO MUSLIMS. A VISIT BY A FOREIGN DELEGATION, HE CAUTIONS, "WHOSE PURPOSE IS TO INVESTIGATE THE MUSLIM SITUATION IN PHILS AND REPORT ITS FINDINGS TO THE ISLAMIC CONFERENCE WOULD BE A BLATANT INTERVENTION IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS."

4. COMMENT: AS EARLY AS MID-APRIL, GOP WAS REPORTED AS WILLING TO RECEIVE ISLAMIC FOREIGN MINISTERS (REF A), AND PRESIDENT MARCO STATED ON MAY 8 IN NATION-WIDE TELEVISION/RADIO ADDRESS (REF B) THAT HE WELCOMED PROPOSED VISIT. THOUGH THE LETTER'S LANGUAGE IS A BIT QUERULOUS, EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT TWO CONDITIONS SET BY MARCOS, WHICH ARE FIRST SUCH CAVEATS EXPRESSED BY GOP WITH REGARD TO VISIT, ARE INTENDED TO SABOTAGE ISLAMIC MISSION. THEY DO, HOWEVER, REFLECT GOP SENSITIVITIES TO ALLEGATIONS OF GROSS MISTREATMENT OF FILIPINO MUSLIM MINORITY AND SUSPICIONS OF LIBYAN INTENTIONS. REFUSAL TO PERMIT VISIT WOULD BE TO DISADVANTAGE OF GOP SINCE THIS WOULD STRENGTHEN ARGUMENTS OF ISLAMIC CRITICS. THUS, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT, WHILE WILLING TO ACCEPT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FOREIGN MINISTERS VISIT, GOP IS ATTEMPTING TO STRUCTURE EVENT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO REDUCE LIKELIHOOD ITS BEING USED AS PROPAGANDA PLATFORM AGAINST PHILIPPINES AND GOP MAY EVEN HOPE VISIT WILL PRODUCE SOME FAVORABLE RESULTS FROM PHIL POINT OF VIEW.
SULLIVAN

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